

Livingprague Newsletter

February 2024



New cafe with an artistic witty Kafka statement

In the February newsletter we'll take a look at a part of the "lost" Prague i.e. the fords, where they were and what replaced them. I'll tell you why I visit a restaurant called Alriso and there's a description of a famous street called Karlova. Finally, I published a video showing arrival at Prague Airport Terminal 1 and how you transfer to a bus.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at where you can go to buy and use cannabis products in a legal and safe environment. Blast from the Past includes an update of the Cannabis/CBD post about CBN/H4CBD, HHC and Delta variants. The Old Jewish Cemetery got a new picture added i.e. snow on the headstones.

Just before you launch into the newsletter take a few seconds to think if your friends or colleagues might find it interesting. If so please consider forwarding to them and they can [subscribe to the newsletter](#) separately if they want.

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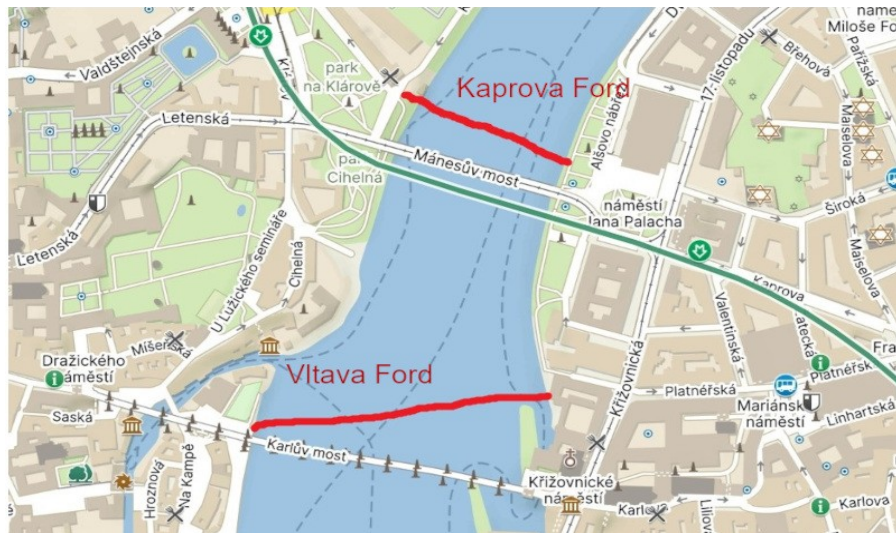
Food and Drink – Alriso

This is what I call a proper Italian restaurant with meat, pasta and fish but NO PIZZA! Add to that options for eating outside on a pleasant square or in their medieval basement. Then to top that off the whole menu is 100% Gluten Free so no having to ask questions to find out what's in the food. [Read more....](#)



Prague Streets - Karlova

Just about the most famous street in the city links the Old Town Square with Charles Bridge and is called Karlova (Charles Street). But that's a fairly recent name. Learn what it used to be called and why the name changed. [Read more....](#)



Lost Prague - The Fords

Long before the first bridges across the river were constructed there were the fords that linked settlements on both sides. The fords are gone now but history has left us a few pointers to know where they used to be and why they were so important for Prague. [Read more....](#)



Video – Bus from Prague Airport Terminal 1

A very simple “How to” video for people arriving at Prague Airport Terminal 1 (that’s from the USA or UK) and transferring to the centre by bus. The locations of ticket machines and a ticket booth. Where to find the bus, how to validate any tickets etc. [See more](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



Had to do some research into the similarities between US Delta THC 8/9/10 variants and what is legally sold in Czechia. Also updated the post for products with “HHC” written on them and I listed a place where you can get a Cannabis “coffee shop” experience. [Read more....](#)



We had a weekend at the beginning of December when it just kept on snowing. Broke all records in Prague and caused all kinds of issues but it meant that on a trip through the Old Jewish Cemetery in Josefov I got a picture of snow-covered headstones. [Read more....](#)

Comment

The House by the Sea

An Englishman came into the possession of a house by the sea and he rented it to two families, one Arab and the other Jewish. One day the Englishman said “I’m leaving now and house is yours but you have to find a way of sharing it”. The two families argue and fight until the Jewish family become the owners. They let the Arab family stay in the house but only in two of the rooms. The Arab family had a dog whose name was Fatah. Fatah was a faithful dog but he had to obey the rules of the new owner. Over time the younger members of the family think that Fatah is not doing his job which coincides with a foreign trader visiting the house with a puppy for sale. The younger Arabs bought the puppy and named it Hamas. Now the owner had a rule – one dog. But the owner thinks that if he allows both dogs then they will fight each other and generally take people’s minds off who owns the house. But it happens that the grown Hamas fights with old Fatah and kills him. The owner is back to having an Arab family with one dog but this dog cannot be controlled like the other one. Each time Hamas gets out and bites the owner’s family, the owner punishes the Arab family until finally it locks them all in one room. But Hamas is a resourceful dog and one day after it gets out it does something truly awful before going back to the room. The owner comes to the family room and opens the door with the intention of killing the dog but, it finds no dog. The dog has disguised itself to look like the family. The owner now has a choice. Does he close the door, step back and think of how better to kill the dog or does he stay in the room and keep killing the family because the owner knows if he kills enough people, eventually one of them will be the dog. The choice is made.

In The News

What's been taking up all the air-time this month.....Postal Ballots. That's right, Czechia currently does not allow postal ballots during an election and there's a big hubbub about "safety and security". The main opposition party that floated the idea 3 years ago (when they were in government) is now in tizzy because the current government wants to introduce it. Pure politics and a waste of parliamentary time as the opposition seeks to delay implementation.

The National Anti-drug Coordinator issued a warning to producers and retail companies selling HHC products (cannabis hemp derivative) in sweets. This is step one in a series that ends with "regulate or we'll do it for you". Currently HHC products are legally sold in Czechia but several EU countries are introducing national bans.

On a 2-day trip to the Plzen region the President got to visit the famous Pilsner Urquell Brewery. He was impressed with actions taken by the brewery to become more sustainable. It was not reported what he had to drink but I think we can all guess.

20 years after joining the European Union, Czechia has still not adopted the Euro as its currency. The government performs its task for discussing this but so far will not set a date for acceptance and hence there is no plan for the 2-year pairing of CZK with Euro which would happen when Czechia entered the Exchange Rate Mechanism. Why no progress? Quite simply it is seen as a vote-loser for the government which is why they fought the last election with a promise that the Euro would not be adopted in this parliament.

The second baby gorilla born in captivity at Prague Zoo was confirmed to be a girl. Children in Cameroon have suggested the potential names and people in Czech will vote for their favourite.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

The leader of the largest Czech opposition party was caught referring to Austrians as “those lunatics”. He later clarified he meant that only members of Austria’s Green Party were lunatics.

4742 migrants in transit through the country were detained by Czech police in 2023.

Czech driver Martin Macik won the Truck category of the 2024 Dakar Rally.

A 16th Century book of religious texts that went missing from Czechoslovakia in the 1940s has been returned to the Archbishopric of the city of Olomouc. Italian police recovered it at an auction.

The Prague Vaclav Havel Airport released data showing that it handled 13.8 million travellers in 2023. 78% of the pre-Covid number.

A poll for Czech Radio indicated that 60% of the country would prefer a referendum on whether to accept the Euro rather than leaving it to the government.

Nationally there were approximately 13.3 million cinema tickets sold in 2023 with the average ticket price CZK170.

Czechia has approximately 82,000 nurses.

The Budvar brewery produced 1.8 Million Hectolitres of beer in 2023 and will expand to 2.1 Million Hectolitres by 2026.

Czechia exported 12 Terawatts of electricity in 2023.

Masaryk railway station is planned to provide a public transit from Prague Airport to the centre in 2030.

The “Three Kings” charity drive held every year on January 6th raised more than CZK161 Million in 2023.

Walking Tours

There are no scheduled tours in February 2024. With the exception of a few private tours for those hardy souls willing to experience a February in Prague, I basically close down until March and I use February for any last-minute holidays, reading, taking care of anything that I put off during the year and generally recharging.

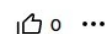
People are still welcome to contact me because I may be able to do last-minute private tours or if not then I'll recommend an alternative.

I read in the news that from June 2024, Venice will reduce walking tour group sizes to a maximum of 25 AND ban loudspeakers. Oooh! I wish.....

People might be interested to know that despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the high rates of inflation since then, my scheduled tour prices have stayed the same.

Review

I picked out the review from "theTogger" as it mentions a common problem for guides i.e. how to keep everybody happy when they may be from different generations with possibly different interests. Within 30 minutes of meeting clients I can generally see what they want out of the tour so I'll adjust things so that the content of the tour, though related to Prague, is likely to reflect some of your own general interests.



Small Sized Tour was a Large Success.

Jan 2024 • Family

The small group size makes the entire tour fantastic. The entire family found it interesting from high school kids to college educated parents. The size also allows for a little back and forth about particular aspects of prague history that interested our group. I would highly recommend it.

[Review of: Small Group Prague Old Town and Jewish Quarter Walking Tour](#)

Written January 8, 2024

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews as part of our industry-leading trust & safety standards. Read our [transparency report](#) to learn more.

Gift Vouchers

Read about the Gift Voucher system on the [Gift Voucher page](#). You can buy individual tours as a gift for somebody and by contacting me the recipient of the gift will have options to swap tours or use the credit to upgrade to a private tour etc. Vouchers are valid for 1 year.

Tours and Card Payment

For any Private Tours or for any Scheduled Tours booked directly through a tour calendar, clients can pay the full cost of a tour in advance by card payment with the understanding that refunds are maximum 96% (cost of tour minus any card transaction fee which is out of my control). In this case you first receive a payment request which has to be completed within 48 hours. Then you receive the booking confirmation.

Tours and Cash Payment

If you prefer to pay for a tour either scheduled or private in cash then you need to contact me. We will agree the tour details and I will quote a price in CZK and your own currency equivalent. You will then receive the booking confirmation and payment is made on the tour day at the agreed amount so in this case there is no advance payment and cancellation is free.

Tours:

[Private Tours](#) are arranged as required.

[Old Town and Jewish Quarter](#) is running normally.

[City Walking Tour](#) is running normally.

[World War Two](#) is running normally.

[Architecture Tour](#) is running normally.

[Czech Food and Beer Tasting](#) is Suspended. The option of food/drink is now only on Private Tours.

[Christmas Markets](#) has restrictions: "tour-only" in 2024 with time for people to buy food/drink as required.



Activity Spotlight! – Kannastar Cannabis Shop



Kannastar Cannabis Shop

It's a common question for visitors to Prague i.e. is Cannabis legal here? You have to separate Marijuana from Hemp. All cannabis products for sale in the shops here are hemp-based and stay within the EU rules on product strength. Therefore it's legal to sell it here.






But we have strict laws on possession of cannabis/marijuana which is illegal so you need to know the limit between what's constitutes a fixed penalty fine and what might result in a criminal conviction. Or just don't take the chance.

So this post about going to a shop where you can get great advice, buy cannabis products and ingest them all in the same place so everything is safe and legal.

Check the post about the [Kannastar Cannabis Shop](#)

Being Social

Click, Like, Subscribe, Follow, Review. Could I ask you to spend a minute interacting with one or more of the social platforms below that have lots of great content to share. Subscribe and/or follow to stay updated.

	<u>FACEBOOK</u> : You can read posts, view short videos, like/share content, follow and message me.
	<u>INSTAGRAM</u> : You can view pictures, like/share content and follow me.
	<u>PINTEREST</u> : You can view specific genre pictures, save Pins to your boards and follow me.
	<u>YOUTUBE</u> : You view full length videos, comment, like/share content and subscribe.
	<u>TRIP ADVISOR</u> : You can view tour pictures, read and leave a tour review for others.

Surveys – Help me improve!

If you have a bit of time then consider a survey. It's anonymous so I just see answers to questions not who it's from.

It should take no more than 2 minutes on any survey.

The “Quick” survey is an overview. The other surveys are content specific. You do not have to finish the whole survey so feel free to answer as many or as few questions as you want.

Just “Send It” when you're ready. You will be helping me to improve all aspects of the sites.

Quick Survey – 1 minute survey

Accommodation – 2 minute survey

Activities – 2 minute survey

Walking Tours – 2 minute survey

Site Navigation - 1 minute survey

Contact Info – Engage with me!



I've now put so much information, local knowledge, tips and tricks into the Trip Planner that I've now renamed it the Trip Planner and Mini-Guide which you can always [download for free](#).

But even that might not be enough to help. Sometimes all you want to do is ask a quick question, sometimes it's a bit of advice regarding an activity or accommodation etc. You're always welcome to contact me via one or more of the following options. Just keep an eye on your spam folder if using email. I reply within 24 hours.

EMAIL: fun@livingprague.com

CALL/SMS/WHATSAPP: +420 603 187856

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/livingpragueguide/>